

# TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

## Utah Coal Regulatory Program

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January 12, 2009

TO: Internal File

THRU: James D. Smith, Lead *DS 04/06/09*

FROM: Ingrid Wieser, Environmental Scientist *W 4/06/09*

RE: Phase I Bond Release of Remaining Reclaimed Areas, Pacificorp/Energy West Mining, Des Bee Dove, C/015/0017, Task # 3043.

### SUMMARY:

On September 2, 2008, the Division received an Application for Phase I Bond release on the remaining reclaimed areas of the Des Bee Dove Mine. The remaining area includes the sediment pond area, and the remote portal breakouts, which consist of 13.90 acres combined. In 2000, the ventilation portals were reclaimed using helicopter support and in 2006, the final reclamation of the sediment pond was completed.

The Application is adequate for Phase I bond release.

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**TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:**

**RECLAMATION PLAN**

**POSTMINING LAND USES**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.15, 784.200, 785.16, 817.133; R645-301-412, -301-413, -301-414, -302-270, -302-271, -302-272, -302-273, -302-274, -302-275.

**Analysis:**

The post mining land use for the disturbed area was changed and approved in February of 2007. The Land use now includes grazing, wildlife habitat, recreation and industrial/commercial uses.

**Findings:**

The information provided is adequate to meet phase I bond release.

**REVEGETATION**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 785.18, 817.111, 817.113, 817.114, 817.116; R645-301-244, -301-353, -301-354, -301-355, -301-356, -302-280, -302-281, -302-282, -302-283, -302-284.

**Analysis:**

**Revegetation: Timing**

The Sediment pond and access road were revegetated with an approved seed mix as soon as backfilling and grading of these areas were completed. According to drawing 300-1A of the Application, reclamation was completed for the sediment pond and access road on January 31, 2006.

### **Revegetation: Mulching and Other Soil Stabilizing Practices**

According to drawing 300-1A of the application, the revegetated area of the sediment pond (5.10 acres) was straw mulched, pocked, hydro mulched and tackified for erosion and sediment control protection.

During the site visit on December 3, 2008, it was apparent that the access road had also been straw mulched, pocked and tackified and the majority had also been hydro mulched. Vegetation was sparsely established, but doing very well for phase I bond release. The revegetated area on the access road and sediment pond was largely comprised of halogeton but the seeded native species should out compete this introduced species over the next couple of years.

### **Revegetation: Standards For Success**

As stated in requirement 3 of *Section 5, Prior to Bond Release Request* of the General Technical Requirements for Phased Bond Release, the Applicant must address all applicable performance standards for bond release and the criteria by which successful reclamation for the post mining land use will be judged. The land use for the reclaimed area includes grazing and wildlife habitat. The Applicant needs to be aware that due to this land use, the Phase III bond release application will need to include a demonstration that the woody species density has met the standard set by the Division and DWR. Also, all of the shrubs or trees used in this calculation must have been in place for at least two years, and at least 80% must have been in place for 60% of the responsibility period, or six years.

### **Findings:**

The information provided is adequate to meet phase I bond release.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The application should be approved for Phase I bond release.